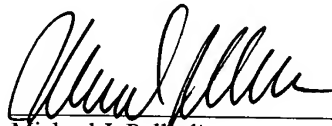


REMARKS

Claims 1-40 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-40 have been amended to delete the phrase "characterized in that" and replace it with "wherein" in accordance with US practice. In addition, Claims 1-11, 13-17 and 19 have been amended to depend solely on Claim 1; and Claims 22-32 and 34-40 dependant have been amended to depend solely on Claim 20 thereby eliminating multiple dependencies. Further, applicants have amended Claim 1 to recite the method steps in gerund form in accordance with U.S. practice and dependent Claims 2-19 have been amended to conform to amended Claim 1 and U.S. practice. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is introduced by these amendments, and respectfully request entry thereof prior to examination on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

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